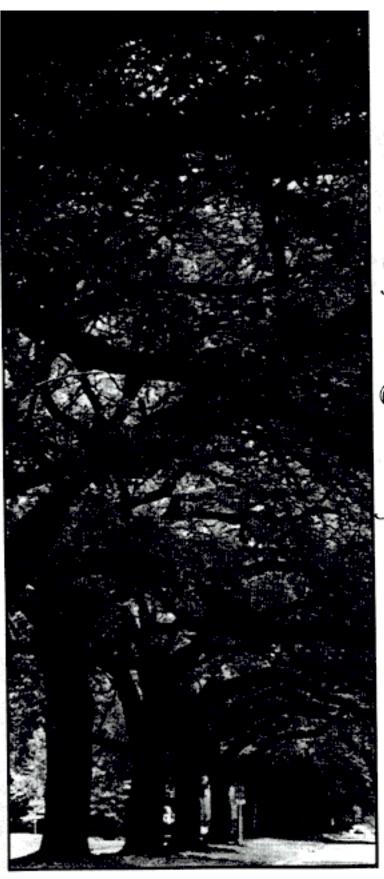
# LOUISIANA URBAN FORESTRY COUNCIL

Planning Far Healthier Louisiana Communities A committee comprised of representatives of LDAF, a utility company, non profit organizations, businesses and the park association prepared this report after meeting for a period of one year, completing a questionnaire to membership under the direction of Louisiana State Urban Forester, Paul Orr. Many thanks to the committee members and the Louisiana Urban Forestry Council.



# Protecting and

## Enhancing Louisiana

# Natural Beauty

Louisiana is known all over the world for its lush greenery. Louisiana trees are among the most beautiful in the world.

Because of this, it makes good sense to take a responsible stand in increasing the awareness among the people in our urban, suburban and rural communities of the value of our urban forests and urban forestry management. And the time to start is now...





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### Background

Urban Jorestry officially began in Louisiana in the mid-seventies with an initial commitment by the Louisiana Office of Forestry to a basic urban forestry effort by assigning one field forester to urban forestry on an as needed basis. In 1980 the Louisiana Legislature officially sanctioned urban forestry by passing legislation that gave authority to the Louisiana Office of Forestry to provide urban forestry technical expertise on a state-wide basis. A full-time staff forester was assigned to the new urban forestry program. This basic status did not change throughout the decade of the 1980's.

Concurrently with the development of the state urban forestry program, urban forestry efforts began to develop in the New Orleans area involving the New Orleans Metro Area Horticulture Committee, the Friends of City Park, the New Orleans Parkways & Park Commission, and the Audubon Institute. Following this initial activity in the New Orleans area, several local urban programs began to develop.

Our mission:
To increase awarenes
among the general
populace throughou
the urban, suburba
& rural communitie
of Louisiana of the
value of urban fores
& urban forestry
management.

Planning

## Present Status of Urban Forstry in Louisiana

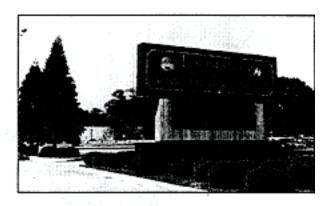
Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry

The Office of Forestry presently
has five full-time urban foresters who
work under the direction of the Information
and Education Division Chief. The
organizational structure is as follows:

#### State Forester

- Information and Education Division Chief
- ¥ Urban Forestry Program Manager
- ¥ Urban Forestry Coordinator
- Regional Urban Forestry Specialist (Southeast)
- Regional Urban Forestry Specialist (Southwest)

In addition to the five urban foresters, agency field foresters help out with urban forestry projects on an "as needed" basis.



The Urban & Community Forestry Grant Program is administered by the Louisiana Department of Agriculture & Forestry.

The Horticulture Commission of the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry has the responsibility for licensing and regulation of arborists operating in Louisiana.

The Louisiana Urban Forestry
Council was organized under the auspices of the
Office of Forestry for the purposes of promoting
urban forestry and networking the various
individual urban forestry efforts from around the
state into one common initiative.

The two major goals of the council are:

- 1/ to increase public awareness of the values and benefits of the urban forest through public education, professional arboriculture training, research and legislative efforts.
- 2) to enhance Louisiana's urban forest resources through the organization and networking of existing urban forestry programs and the establishment of new programs in every community where there is an expressed need.

The Louisiana Urban Forestry Council is affiliated with many nonprofit "green" organizations, local community governments, professionals and others through its membership. The Council consists of a twenty-five member Board of Directors from which the Executive Committee is elected. There is also an Advisory Board made up of others who contribute to the Council as needed.

The Council is changing from a group that was nostly on the receiving end of urban forestry issistance to an organization that delivers urban forestry assistance and recognizes significant contributions in urban forestry.

The Louisiana Arborist Association is a relatively new organization formed in association with the Louisiana Association of Surserymen and with the International iociety of Arboriculture. The membership is nade up of commercial arborists, urban forestry onsultants and utility line clearing companies. The primary goal of the Association is to uprade the quality of work and the professionalism within the industry.

The College of Agriculture & Home Sconomics of Southern University and A&M College of Baton Rouge has developed and implemented an Urban Forestry Curriculum as a Baccalaureate Degree Program. The bjectives of the baccalaureate degree program in than forestry are to:

provide professional training to urban forestry students from a wide array of backgrounds in the planning and management of urban forest resources so that they may make significant contributions to the physical, social and economic well-being of urban societies.

- 2) provide minority students with innovative training in urban forestry in order to meet the demand for ethnic diversity in the professional work force in general and USDA in particular.
- 3/ augment the Department's capacity to provide students with experiential learning activities to enhance the urban forestry and plant and soil sciences curricula.

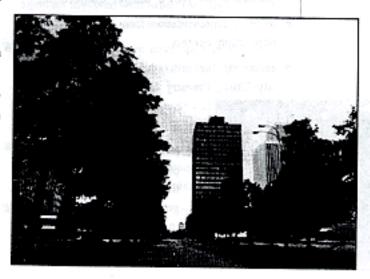
Other statewide organizations and entities that are involved in urban forestry in some way include:

- \* Louisiana Garden Club Federation
- \* Louisiana the Beautiful
- ¥ Louisiana Cooperative Extension
- ¥ Louisiana State University System
- Couisiana Department of Transportation and Development
- Louisiana Forestry Association
- Louisiana Department of Culture, Recreation and Tourism
- ¥ Louisiana Municipal Association

LOUISIANA URBAN FORESTRY COUNCIL

Three well placed trees around a home can reduce utility cooling bills by 50% & windbreak trees reduce heating bills by 30%.

——American Forests



For Healthier Louisiana Communities 7



## The Future of Urban Forestry in Louisiana

The strategies to further urban forestry in Louisiana that follow are now and will continue to be implemented on a broad front. As the various entities work toward their own specific goals and network together, they will carry urban forestry forward. It is not the intent of this plan to impose time limits or further quantify or define the accomplishments in urban forestry over the next few years. Let it suffice to say that there is a natural progression when programs are developed with a concern for quality and excellence.

As a broad measure, this strategic plan is in keeping with the stated goals & objectives of the LA. URBAN FORESTRY COUNCIL.

#### Education & Training

- provide for the publication of urban forestry informational materials, including the proposed Louisiana Urban Forestry Manual. Also, implementation of all on-going educational, instructional and training efforts, in particular the LUFC annual Conference.
- increase representation from all major population centers.
- encourage the utilization of Southern University Urban Forestry Graduates and Students
  - to enhance urban forestry in Louisiana.
  - promote the awareness, planning and implementation of urban forestry programs in communities in Louisiana with an established need.

- ₩ increase Tree City U.S.A. representation to a least 50 communities in Louisiana.
- emphasize urban forestry education. To continue the forward progress of urban forestry a high priority has to be placed on awareness of the concept of urban forestry issues by utilizing available educational opportunities.
- establish scholarship programs at the university level, community college and Vocational Institute level.
- ★ network with the LOUISIANA ARBORIST ASSOCIATION to focus developing education and training opportunities that will upgrade the performance and increase the image of the arboriculture industry. These efforts will be in cooperation with the LOUISIANA HORTICULTURE COMMISSION'S licensing requirements. Education and training provided would be directed toward the continuing education requirements of licensing legislation and toward basic education to prepare arborist fo the first time licensing exam.
- develop a strategy to promote the LA Arborist Association members to acquire I.S.A. certification. One aspect of the role of the Association in promoting the







oriculture industry that needs attention is reloping a strategy to expand the consult-(arborist / urban forester) opportunity.

ure a healthier urban forest by educating public on proper pruning of trees around ity lines. They will then serve as inspecs for their property when tree trimming ws work in neighborhoods.

#### oriculture

vide more urban forestry expertise and hnical assistance in the field to encourage ter tree maintenance programs for existing and to provide for more and better tree nting programs.

mote additional urban forestry expertise m the private sector such as consulting orists and urban foresters.

courage all utilities to have a written gram for line clearing that is in accorice with nationally accepted arboriculture adards and practices. Plans should include replacement, tree conservation, landner education and licensing requirements crews involved in line clearing.

#### vorking

FC in partnership with the urban forestry f will continue to participate in educational arts for volunteer "green" groups, to vide training for green industry and



public works employees, and to network with other partners.

- the Louisiana Horticulture Commission and the Louisiana Arborist Association will provide training and continuing education for licensed and potential licensed arborists. A working relationship will continue to develop with utilities and utility line clearing contractors based on a common goal of improving the quality of line clearing activities in the state as well as improving the public image of and acceptance of line clearing practices statewide.
- Tree City U.S.A. is a networking opportunity that will continue to promote cooperation between organizations and entities involved in varied urban forestry efforts.
- the LUFC will pursue networking with agencies involved with urban forestry on national, regional and state levels.
- regional councils have developed in the New Orleans Metro Area and the North Lake Region. The primary goal of the Regional Councils is to expand networking opportunity.
- the Southern Urban Forestry Program will continue its community outreach with organizations throughout Louisiana.
- encourage participation of organizations in urban forestry and other networking possibilities that would promote urban

LOUISIANA URBAN FORESTRY COUNCIL

Trees provide
privacy & a
sense of solitude
& security. They
also add natural
character to our
cities & towns.

#### LOUISIANA URBAN FORESTRY COUNCIL Planning

forestry in Louisiana which includes organizations such as the Louisiana Association of Planners, The Louisiana Federated Garden Clubs, The Louisiana Cooperative Extension Service, The Louisiana Home Builders Association and The LA. Municipal Association. (for additional listings, see page 3)

utilities have an important role in promoting a healthy urban forest in Louisiana and should continue their networking efforts with other urban forestry concerns throughout the state.

#### Conservation

develop a strategy for making the urban forests of coastal Louisiana as storm worthy as possible over the next decade. The Hurricane Andrew Federal Assistance Program has allowed our state a good beginning by providing funding for the implementation of new and the advancement of existing urban forestry programs throughout the coastal region. As a result, many communities have developed a keen interest in replacing lost trees and in expanding the storm protective aspects of the urban forest.

#### Advocacy

statewide legislative interests should perpetuate the urban forestry structure with an adequate level of funding for a viable program. The job of drafting the legislation based on this public input is the job of the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry.

#### Research

The Council has endorsed the need for loca and specific urban forestry research by adopting a close working relationship with the Urban Forestry Program at Southern University College. Urban forestry research is a priority for the Southern Urban Forestry Program. Research projects would include regional and local topics such as species/site suitability for gulf coastal plantings.

#### Resources

There is a need to develop the Council's annual conference into a significant event. The annual meeting should be a vital part of membership expansion efforts and a fund raising event which would enable L.U.F.C. to generate its own resources.

#### Funding

The LUFC Fund Raising committee is developing opportunities to underwrite the operating expenses/budget of the Council.

